EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS

Southeast 14th and Northeast 15th Streets
Delfasco Forge Site **September 2009**

This Fact Sheet will tell you about..

- **Background**
- **Southeast 14th and Northeast 15th Streets Delfasco Forge Site**
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Background

At a community meeting in Grand Prairie, Texas, on September 2008, the community expressed to the U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) staff their concerns about potential exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) vapors from contaminated groundwater in several areas in Grand Prairie. The community also expressed concerns about the possible source(s) of the contamination.

In response to the community concerns, in late 2008 and early 2009, EPA collected soil gas and indoor air samples in three areas in Grand Prairie (Southeast 14th Street, Northeast 15th Street and Delfasco Forge Site neighborhoods) where there was suspected potential impact from contaminated groundwater.

Southeast 14th Street Contaminated Groundwater and Northeast 15th Street Contaminated Groundwater Areas

The EPA installed 115 passive soil gas samplers in the Southeast 14th Street area and 203 passive soil gas samplers in the Northeast 15th Street area. All of the soil vapor samplers remained in the ground for over a week and after their removal the samplers were sent to a laboratory. The results were reviewed and plotted to determine the amount of trichloroethylene in the soil. The sampling and analysis results from both neighborhoods showed low levels of trichloroethylene present in less than 10 percent of the samples collected. The EPA compared the data collected from the Southeast 14th Street and Northeast 15th Street study areas to data collected from a site with similar conditions and contamination. Based on this comparison, EPA concluded that the trichloroethylene levels detected would not be expected to affect the health of the people who live in the homes within the two study areas. Data collected in a Texas Department of State Health Services study support this conclusion in the two neighborhoods.

Delfasco Forge Site

At the Delfasco Forge Site, EPA collected indoor air samples form several homes and installed approximately 100 soil gas samplers in the right-of-ways from Main and NE 28th Streets to Rinehart and NE 31st Streets. The soil gas samplers remained in the ground for over a week. After their removal the samplers were sent to a laboratory. The results were reviewed and plotted to determine the amount of trichloroethylene in the soil.

Based upon the data collected from the Delfasco Forge Site, some homes will require some abatement to reduce trichloroethylene concentration in the indoor air. To limit potential exposure and to reduce trichloroethylene concentrations in the indoor air, EPA is offering to install exhaust fans in homes that had, or are expected to have, elevated trichloroethylene levels.

The exhaust fans are different for each type of housing construction:

- For homes with crawl spaces (the majority of homes in the area), a crawl space exhaust fan can be used.
- For homes built on a slab, a radon-type fan that pulls a vacuum on the soil below the slab to remove the vapors directly from the soil can be used.

There are two methods for powering each exhaust fan:

- The exhaust fan can be connected to the home's electrical power and run 24 hours a day with a cost to the residents of $3 to $8 per month.
- The exhaust fan can also be operated using only solar power and will operate solely during the daylight hours (no connection with the home's electrical system.)

If other homeowners want to install exhaust fans in their own homes they can find information about the exhaust fans from local home improvement stores or search for "crawl space exhaust fans" on the internet.

Next Steps

EPA will continue to pursue future actions at the Delfasco Forge Site to protect public health and the environment.

If you have any concerns about your health, you should check with your personal physician. If your doctor would like additional information about trichloroethylene, he or she can contact the Texas Department of State Health Services at 1.800.588.1248

What You Should Know About Vapor Intrusion

At the Delfasco Forge Site, EPA determined that vapors detected in the homes were a result of trichloroethylene contamination in groundwater. In other circumstances, exposure to trichloroethylene can be from many sources, including solvents used to remove grease from automotive and other metal parts, and household and consumer products (such as typewriter correction fluid, paint removers, adhesives, and spot removers), as well as vapor intrusion from contaminated groundwater. To reduce your potential exposure to trichloroethylene, you can:

- Store unused chemicals in tightly sealed containers;
- Use products containing trichloroethylene in well ventilated areas;
- Make sure that crawlspace vents on your home are open and not blocked;
- Make sure that louvers on crawlspace vents are in good working condition and are not bent; and
- Let fresh air into your home to help prevent the buildup of chemicals in the air.

Where to get more information …

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For press inquiries, please call the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2208.

You can find more information about the Region 6 Superfund program on EPA's Region 6 website: http://www.epa.gov/region6/superfund

Information Repositories

Bowles Branch Library
2705 Graham Street
Grand Prairie TX 75050
972.237.7541

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Building E, Records Management, 1st Floor
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78753
512.239.2920